

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of January 28, 2003 has been has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 16-18 are pending.

The Office Action objects to Figure 3 as not showing the SRAM cell of claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled rendering this objection moot.

Claims 8 and 16-18 stand objected to for several informalities. Claim 8 has been canceled and claims 16 and 18 have been amended as suggested by in the Office Action. It is also respectfully pointed out that Figure 1 and the description on page 5, lines 22-37, describe the second width. Withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Claims 8 and 16-18 stand rejected as obvious over Chan et al (US 6,091,630) in view of Hirano (U.S. 6,252,280). The Office Action considers that Chan discloses first and second opposing device regions, and third and fourth non-opposing device regions in accordance with instant claims 16 and 18. A marked-up Figure 2 from Chan showing "device regions" 1, 2, 3, and 4 was included with the Office Action. Support for the placement of these device regions in the marked-up figure is not provided.

Moreover, contrary to the statement in the Office Action, any region within the SRAM semiconductor device shown in Fig. 2 of Chan et al. cannot be inherently regarded as a device region. Although regions 1 and 2 are indeed parts of transistors, regions 3 and 4 are not parts of transistors. As Chan clearly describes in the specification (column 4, lines 8-26), regions 3 and 4 are simply used as interconnections for power supply. Therefore, the regions 3 and 4 are not device regions within the scope of the instant claims.

Hirano does not remedy the defects of Chan. The instant claims require two sets (pairs) of device regions (active areas), which are disposed in two wells adjacent to each other with a well isolation structure disposed between each set of device regions. Hirana merely discloses a single set (pair) of device regions and thus does not teach two sets of device regions in accordance with claims 16-18. There is no reason to modify Chan based on Hirana to obtain the two pairs of device regions in accordance with the instant claims.

Appln. No.: 09/917,775
Preliminary Amendment dated July 28, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action of January 28, 2003

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

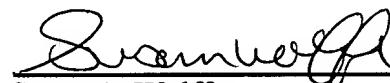
It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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